

## **Horseys Pond**

46.3 acres  
Laurel

Moderate numbers of bass were present with a few over 15 inches. Average weights are good and the 2009 year-class was strong indicating increasing abundance of legal-length fish. Growth was average with legal length reached between age 3 and 4. Near the dam on the sharp drop-off is always a good spot to cast for the larger fish.



Bluegill abundance was moderately high with a wide size range of fish up to 8 inches and good weights. Spawning areas were locally concentrated wherever sandy bottom was evident in the pond. Black crappie were few and scattered but there were some individuals up to nearly 12 inches in length. Yellow perch abundance has increased in recent years with occasional large nice-size (12" and up) individuals.

American eel and golden shiner were common

throughout the pond with lesser numbers of brown bullhead catfish, creek chubsucker, gizzard shad, and chain pickerel.

### **VEGETATION**

Although the non-native invasive plant hydrilla nearly covered Horseys Pond for many years beginning in the early 1980s, years of control efforts have had an impact on this plant. In recent years, hydrilla coverage has varied, but the filamentous (thread-like) alga, *Lyngbya*, has increased at the same time. This alga forms large floating mats that can impair fishing activities. Both herbicide applications for hydrilla (June 2011) and the Division's weed harvester have been used to control the vegetation.

### **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

This is Delaware's deepest pond with maximum depth historically reaching about 12 feet immediately in front of the dam. This area holds bass and crappie during the late fall and can be very productive on a warmer winter day. Shoreline anglers have been observed catching large bluegill here and in the splash pool just below the pond.

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